

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7. (canceled)

Claim 8. (previously presented) A method for managing operators of a telecommunications network, the operators being members of an operator service and the network having a plurality of switching offices, the method comprising the steps of:

logging on to a home switching office via a data channel by an operator;

logging on to a peripheral line trunk group via the data channel by the operator;

transmitting, after successfully logging on, a request for remote logging on to a central master office;

transmitting a call number or a call number table of virtual operators located in the central master office from the peripheral line trunk group to the operator;

initiating a voice link to one of the virtual operators, by the operator, using the call number or the call number table;

transmitting the request for remote logging on from the home switching office to the master office via inter-office signaling, after the voice link has been successfully set up;

conveying the request for remote logging on, in the master office, to a coordination processor;

loading from at least one of the coordination processors and the peripheral line group of the master office, the log on confirmation data and data which is specific to the operator service, into the peripheral line trunk group of the operator in the home switching office;

loading the log on confirmation data and the data which is specific to the operator service to the operator's terminal from the peripheral line trunk group of the operator in the home switching office;

transmitting, via a data channel, a status report of the operator to the peripheral line trunk group of the home switching office; and

transmitting the status report of the operator to the coordination processor of the master office from the peripheral line trunk group of the home switching office via inter-office signaling.

Claim 9. (currently amended) A method for managing operators of a telecommunications network as claimed in claim 8, the method further comprising the step of:

terminating ~~the~~ local logging on to the home switching office after the remote logging on of the operator to the master office.

Claim 10. (previously presented) A method for managing operators of a telecommunications network as claimed in claim 8, wherein the status report is not output until after a protection time following the remote logging on has expired.

Claim 11. (previously presented) A method for managing operators of a telecommunications network as claimed in claim 8, wherein data to be transmitted is transmitted from the peripheral line trunk group of the master office to the operator via a channel other than a voice channel.

Claim 12. (previously presented) A method for managing operators of a telecommunications network as claimed in claim 8, wherein data to be transmitted is transmitted via a voice channel set up between the operator and one of the virtual operators using a data link program.

Claim 13. (previously presented) A method for managing operators of a telecommunications network as claimed in claim 8, wherein the communications network is an ISDN network, the data channel is a D channel and voice channels are B channels.

Claim 14. (previously presented) A method for managing operators of a telecommunications network as claimed in claim 8, wherein the inter-office signaling system is an ISUP signaling system.